

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06

TRSE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 L-03

DRC-01 SCEM-02 INT-08 /114 W
----- 034556

R 050631Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2122

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 6608

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, AS

SUBJ: GOA EXTENDS EXPORT CONTROLS TO ALL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

REFS: (A) CANBERRA 6583

(B) STATE 234084

1. IN TWO SEPARATE DECEMBER 5 MOVES, GOA ACTED TO RESPOND TO THREAT OF SHORTAGE OF BUNKER OIL, AVIATION FUEL AND OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT IN ANSWER TO QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE, MINERALS AND ENERGY MINISTER CONNOR SAID THAT AUSTRALIAN COASTAL SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS WILL GET PRIORITY IN ALLOCATION OF BUNKER. SAME DAY, CHANGE TO GOA REGULATIONS GAZETTED TO EXTEND EXISTING EXPORT CONTROLS TO ALL REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. CHANGE OF REGULATIONS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR GENERAL AND HAVE EFFECT OF LAW, ALTHOUGH PARLIAMENT COULD CONCEIVABLY ACT TO RESCIND MOVE. SUCH ACTION, HOWEVER, EXTREMELY UNLIKELY.

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2. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER, TREDINNICK, DEPARTMENT MINERALS AND ENERGY, EXPLAINED THAT AUSTRALIA STILL NOT EXPERIENCING SHORTAGE OF BUNKER, AVIATION FUEL OR ANY PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. EXTENSION OF EXPORT CONTROLS, WITH CONNOR IMPOSED ON ALL RAW AND SEMI-PROCESSED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN EARLY 1973, WILL ENABLE GOA TO RATION REFINED PRODUCTS TO AUST. AND FOREIGN SHIPPING AND AIRLINES.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REFTEL), GOA WAS KNOWN TO BE CONSIDERING THESE MOVES EVEN THOUGH SHORTAGES HAVE NOT YET DEVELOPED. DEC 5 MOVES MAKE IT CLEAR THAT CONNOR INTENDS TO PROTECT AUSTRALIAN SHIPPING INTERESTS IN ALLOCATING BUNKER. AS TREDINNICK HAS NOW INDICATED PRIVATELY, CONNOR ALSO MEANS TO USE NEW EXPORT CONTROLS OVER AVIATION FUEL AS BARGAINING LEVER TO ASSURE FUEL SHORTAGES ABROAD TO NOT WORK TO QANTAS' DISADVANTAGE AND IN FAVOR OF US AND OTHER FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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